

Serial No.: 10/027,723
Examiner: Afsar M. Qureshi

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 6-18 remain in this application, with claims 6, 7 and 10 being independent claims. Claims 1-5 have been canceled.

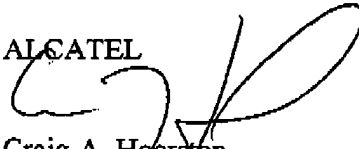
In the outstanding office action, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hill et al.* (US 5,796,944). Applicants have canceled claims 1-5 herein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Further in the office action, the Examiner has acknowledged that claims 6-18 are directed to allowable subject matter. As these claims remain in the present application, Applicants respectfully assert that the present application is in condition for allowance.

It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-5 as set forth in the Office Action, and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL


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